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Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW ANNOUNCES
WEST VIRGINIA AND OTHER STATES WILL DISTRIBUTE
\$24 MILLION IN ANTITRUST SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Consumers Compensated for Increased Drug Costs

Attorney General Darrell McGraw announced today the distribution of more than \$600,000 in antitrust settlement funds to West Virginia consumers who purchased Cardizem CD, a prescription heart medication.

A total of \$605,246.94 in refunds will be paid to 2,113 West Virginia consumers to compensate them for overpayments they made for Cardizem CD and its generic equivalents between 1998 and 2004. Nationwide, \$24 million is being distributed to more than 76,000 consumers. The states' plan to distribute money to consumers was approved by United States District Court Judge Nancy Edmonds on May 31, 2005.

"My office aggressively tried to notify consumers about their rights to a refund under the terms of this settlement. As a result, West Virginia received more money than 40 other states and territories," said Attorney General McGraw. "The television commercials were extremely effective."

The distribution is the result of a 2003 settlement in a market allocation antitrust case against two pharmaceutical companies, Aventis and Andrx. The states charged that beginning in July 1998, Hoechst, a pharmaceutical company acquired by Aventis in 2000, paid Andrx not to market a generic version of Cardizem CD. The delay in the availability of the generic form of Cardizem CD meant that consumers, medical insurance companies, and the government had to purchase the higher priced brand name version of the drug for a least an extra year.

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